

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 XMB-02 EB-07 SSO-00 PPT-01

SS-15 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 H-02 COME-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 AID-05 /057 W
----- 122297

O 221654Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7272

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 2585

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: BTIO, CASC

SUB: AMCIT CHARLES F. WILLIS, JR.

REFS: (A) DEPT (AF/W) TRANS. ESLIP, 3/3/75 WITH EXIMBANK AND
OTHER DOCUMENTS.

(B) DEPT (AF/W) MEMCON, "WEST AFRICAN FISHERIES PROJECT," 3/4/75.

(C) STATE 050310.

(D) ACCRA MEMCON, "MR. WILLIS' GHANAIA FISHING VENTURE," 3/11/75
EXCERPTED IN ACCRA 1788.

(E) ACCRA 2576

1. WILLIS VISITED EMBASSY MORNING APRIL 21 AND REPORTED HE
HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM LEAVING GHANA ON PAN AM FLIGHT EVENING
APRIL 19. HIS PASSPORT TAKEN (LATER RETURNED) AND HE TAKEN TO AIRPORT
IMMIGRATION OFFICE. WILLIS STATES HE STILL HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN
REASON FOR GOG REFUSAL ALLOW HIM TO DEPART, EXCEPT THAT
APPROVAL FROM MANAGING DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (OR,
FAILING THAT, SECRETARY TO NATIONAL REDEMPTION COUNCIL)
REQUIRED.

2. WILLIS TOLD EMBOFFS IN CONFIDENCE THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD
EARLIER THAT HIS PROPOSED JOINT FISHING VENTURE
(REFERENCES) WOULD NECESSITATE DOLS 30,000 DEPOSIT IN
NUMBERED SWISS ACCOUNTS TO TWO GHANAIA PARTIES. HE SAYS
HE FLATLY REFUSED, AND ATTRIBUTES HIS DIFFICULTIES TO THIS
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REFUSAL.

3. EMBASSY HAS MADE INQUIRIES HIS BEHALF. WILLIS SAYS HE WILL ATTEMPT TO DEPART AGAIN THIS EVENING. WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT UNTIL HE "COMPLIES WITH CERTAIN GOG REQUIREMENTS" AND OBTAINS CLEARANCE FROM ONE OF FOUR OFFICIALS HE WILL STILL NOT RPT NOT BE ABLE TO DEPART AND MAY BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY SPECIAL BRANCH. OUR SOURCES STATE WILLIS HAS BEEN APPRISED OF THE NECESSARY FOUR CLEARANCES; WILLIS SAYS IT IS NEWS TO HIM. HE SAYS HE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TODAY TO REACH THE TWO GHANAIAAN PARTIES WHOM HE UNDERSTANDS ARE HOLDING UP CLEARANCE.

4. AS DEPARTEMENT AWARE (REFERENCES), WILLIS CLAIMS CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN US. GOG BEHAVCR THIS CASE IS VERY UNUSUAL; WE ARE INFORMED THAT GIVEN VERY HIGH-LEVEL GOG INTEREST WILLIS MUST HAVE "DONE SOMETHING WRONG." WE HAVE RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED WILLIS NOT RPT NOT COMPLETELY FORTHCOMING WITH EMBASSY. WE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO MONITOR, TO REPORT AS APPROPRIATE, AND TO INTERCEDE IF NECESSARY.
BLACK

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